

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 be entered in the above-identified application prior to continued examination.

Initially, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 25 and 26 contain allowable subject matter.

In the Official Action, the Examiner withdraws new claim 27 added by the previous response. Claim 27, has been canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objects to claims 25 and 26. In response, claims 25 and 26 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,958,576 to Komiya (hereinafter "Komiya"). Additionally, the Examiner rejects claims 3, 6, 9 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komiya. Furthermore, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,766,184 to Matsuno et al., (hereinafter "Matsuno"). Lastly, the Examiner rejects claims 11-13 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komiya and Matsuno in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,135,489 to Jepson et al., (hereinafter "Jepson").

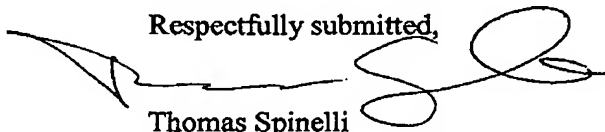
In response, claims 1, 3, 6-13, 17 and 19-24 have been canceled thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 3, 6-13, 17 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a).

However, new claims 28-34 have been added to further define the patentable invention. New claims 28-34 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 28-34.

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 28 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is allowable and that claims 29-34 are at least allowable as being dependent therefrom.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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